

February 15, 2011

**HB500: Establishing daylight saving time as the official time for Montana**  
Introduced by: K Hansen

I cannot believe this issue of standard/daylight time is being run up the flagpole again this session...twice so far. It was brought up in 1999, 2003, 2009, and now again.

Title 15, Chapter 6, subchapter IX of the United States Code deals with this issue. Part of this statute states that "It is the policy of the United States to promote the adoption and observance of uniform time within the standard time zones...".

Part 260a states that "any State that lies entirely within one time zone may by law exempt itself from the provisions of this subsection providing for the advancement of time, but only if that law provides that the entire State (including all political subdivisions thereof) shall observe the standard time otherwise applicable during that period...".

To me, that means a state can opt out of daylight saving time, but does not give the option to stay on daylight saving time. I feel the intent is clear that all States cooperate in the uniform observance of time.

The 2010 census revealed a US population of 308,745,538. Montana came in at 989,415, which is .3% of the total population. The only two states that currently do not observe daylight saving time are Arizona (6,392,017 or 2.07%) and Hawaii (1,380,301 or .45%). They make up 2.5% of the population.

According to an article on timeanddate.com (<http://www.timeanddate.com/time/us/arizona-no-dst.html>), Arizona has not observed daylight saving time since 1967.

Hawaii doesn't need DST as their day length doesn't vary appreciably throughout the year and they are close to the western boundary of their time zone.

Why is it that over 300,000,000 <sup>people</sup> can deal with switching time twice a year, but a handful of Montanans have a problem with it?

Where is the fiscal note for this bill? Computers, cell phones, and other electronic devices have atomic clocks or code in a microchip that adjusts for the time changes. Who will pay for programming changes, upgrades to, and/or replacement of all these devices? As a taxpayer, I feel we have already spent more than enough time and money on this issue over the last decade. And, I think the State has much bigger and much more important fish to fry in the next few weeks.

When I was getting my Master's degree at Utah State, I made a few comments to my Mormon neighbors that I didn't care for the beer sales policy. They politely suggested that if I didn't like it, I didn't have to live there. So, I would make the same suggestion to the few folks who don't want to set their clocks twice a year...that they can move to Arizona or Hawaii.

HB500: Establishing daylight saving time as the official time for Montana  
Introduced by: K Hansen

Montanans are an independent, free thinking bunch, but on the issue of standard and daylight saving time, I feel we should stay in the mainstream and conform to what 97% of the rest of the country is doing.

For these reasons, I oppose HB500 and ask the members of the committee to vote NO.

Thank you,  
Cindy Swank  
6670 Sleeping Giant View  
Helena, MT 59602

5102 Road 2041  
Poplar, MT 59255